

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-11, 16, and 17, and cancel claim 18 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A low energy cartridge, comprising:
 - an outer casing;
 - a rear telescopically slidable portion disposed, in use, to be telescopically extendable with respect to the outer casing in a direction towards ~~the-a~~ breech-block of a firearm;
 - a front telescopically slidable portion disposed, in use, to be telescopically extendable with respect to the outer casing in a direction towards ~~the-a~~ barrel of ~~a-the~~ firearm;
 - means for causing each telescopically slidable portion, in use, ~~too-to~~ telescopically extend in reaction to firing of ~~a-the~~ firearm containing the cartridge;
 - an open end of the front telescopically slidable portion configured to receive a projectile; and
 - means for propelling ~~a-the~~ projectile from the open end.
2. (currently amended) A low energy cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the front telescopically extendable portion is made from a plastic, other pliable material or of a composite construction so as to seal the front portion into the outer ~~case-casing~~ and ~~a~~ chamber of the ~~gun~~firearm.
3. (currently amended) A low energy cartridge as claimed in claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ further including comprising a projectile received in the front telescopically slidable portion ~~of cartridge~~, the projectile comprising a bullet ~~which is~~ configured such that the bullet remains sealed in the front portion ~~of the cartridge~~ until a portion of ~~it~~ the bullet has entered ~~the-a~~ rifled part of the barrel of the firearm.
4. (currently amended) A low energy cartridge as claimed in claim 1,~~2 or 3~~ wherein the means for causing the telescopically slidable portions to telescopically

extend ~~include~~ comprises a gas releasing device positioned ~~to the~~ at a rear of the rear telescopically slidable portion, an open ended gas passage extending through the rear portion and forwardly of the gas releasing device, and a closure member sealingly slidably located in the gas passage.

5. (currently amended) A low energy cartridge as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein the means for causing the telescopically slidable portions to telescopically extend ~~includes~~ comprises a primer positioned ~~to the~~ at a rear of the rear portion, and an open ended gas passage extending through the rear portion and forwardly of the primer.
6. (currently amended) A low energy cartridge as claimed in claim 5 further including comprising a propellant charge ignited by the primer and positioned between the front and rear telescopically slidable portions.
7. (currently amended) A low energy cartridge as claimed in claim 4 or 5 further including comprising a primer positioned ~~to the~~ at a rear of the front portion and an open ended gas passage extending through the front portion and forwardly of the primer, the open ended gas passage being closable by a projectile.
8. (currently amended) A low energy cartridge as claimed in claim 7 as dependent from claim 4 wherein the primer of the front portion is initiated on impact of the closure member with the primer.
9. (currently amended) A low energy cartridge as claimed in ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein the outer casing is shaped so as to include at or near each end an inwardly jutting surface which serves to stop the telescopically slidable portions separating from the outer casing when ~~they~~ the portions extend.
10. (currently amended) A low energy cartridge as claimed in claim 9 wherein the inwardly jutting surface comprises an annular flange having an inner radius which is slightly smaller than ~~the~~ a largest radius of the corresponding telescopically slidable portion.

11. (currently amended) A low energy cartridge as claimed in ~~any of claims 4 to 10~~ ~~claim 4~~ wherein the closure member comprises a plug which has a cross section in a direction perpendicular to ~~the~~a direction of travel of the telescopically slidable portions, of similar shape and size to that of the gas passage of the first telescopically slidable portion.
12. (original) A low energy cartridge as claimed in claim 11 wherein the closure member is substantially spherical.
13. (original) A low energy cartridge as claimed in claim 12 wherein the closure member is a ball.
14. (original) A low energy cartridge as claimed in claim 13 wherein the ball is made from steel.
15. (original) A low energy cartridge as claimed in claim 13 wherein the ball is made from a plastic material.
16. (currently amended) A low energy cartridge as claimed in ~~any of claims 4 to 13~~claim 4 wherein the closure member has an outer surface which is selected to be of a low friction material so as to allow the member to easily slide along the gas passage.
17. (currently amended) A low energy cartridge as claimed in ~~any preceding~~claim 1 further including comprising at least one gas tight seal between a telescopically slidable portion and the outer casing.
18. (canceled)